

Sinclair Broadcasting Group has instructed their 62 local stations to air an anti-John Kerry documentary shortly before our national election. This documentary is not "news," as they claim, and it violates the requirements for balanced news reporting.

Sinclair's stations are public, not cable, and in exchange for free use of local airwaves, they are legally obligated to serve the public interest. Sinclair executives seem to be confusing the public interest with their personal interest. The public interest is obviously to help inform the electorate regarding each candidate's history and policy positions. As such, of course it must be permissible to air negative information. However, airing a documentary that selectively includes only negative information while ignoring divergent opinion and positive facts is equivalent to posting a lengthy political ad. Perhaps it would be fair to present two opposing documentaries, one pro-Kerry and one anti-Kerry, but better yet to stick to the real news.

As an American, I count on the FCC to maintain standards for our public stations. This violation is so egregious that I trust you will address it immediately. We have enough candidate advocacy groups without turning our public stations into the equivalent of 527 groups.

Thank you.